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XVIII. CROTON Spicatum, *nova Plantæ
Species ex America, quam Descriptione ex
icone illustravit Petrus Jonas Bergius,
M. D. Hist. Nat. et Pharm. Profess.
Stockh. R. Colleg. Med. Assessor, Reg.
Acad. Scient. Stock. Membr.*

Read April, 21,
1768.

SCIENTIÆ rei herbariæ ulteriori perfectioni nihil perinde conducere arbitror, atque idoneas plantarum novarum minusve cognitarum descriptiones, præsertim ubi bonæ etiam accesserint icones. Ut enim in omnibus aliis scientiis magnopere expedit, quarumcunque rerum eo pertinentium ignorantiam vel incertitudinem, quoad fieri potuerit, tolli, ita valde quoque opportunum scientiæ contingit botanicæ, quotiescunque novæ rarissimæque plantæ in lucem proferuntur, et quidem ita proferuntur, ut quælibet partes earum essentielles, quoad liceant, et illucide adumbrentur. Certe quidem hoc generatim de omnibus valet plantis, ad quodcunque demum stirpium pertinuerint genus; nulla enim unquam detecta fuit species, quin attentione fuerit dignissima; tamen solent speciatim illæ ipsæ noviter detectæ species impensiori excipi eruditorum attentione et applausu, quæ ad genus quoddam pertinent, in quo una pluresve species virtute usuque aliquo singulari, vel medico vel œconomico, dudum inclaruerunt, quippe quoniam suspicari fas sit, in cunctis speciebus affinis quodammodo consonas, saltem non multum alienas, inesse vires.

Hocce respectu operæ profecto pretium fuerit, rarissimam quandam sistere speciem, ad amplum illud pertinentem stirpium genus, quod utraque potissimum India profert, quodque botanicis *Croton* audit. Etenim non una duntaxat, sed plures species, sub unius generis vexillo comprehensæ, ob eximium in medicina aut æconomia usum multo dudum nomine sunt, quod quidem satis ii norunt, qui ex merito æstimare didicerunt *Croton Cascarillam*, *Croton febriferum*, *Croton Tiglium*, *Croton tinctorium*, atque *Croton aromaticum*. Hinc ubi nova eidem huic generi accedit species, adeo non id a botanicis ferri poterit indifferenter, ut potius non possint non pronum eo advertere animum oculosque. Et vero etsi nondum quidquam de ulla novæ stirpis virtute constet, tamen id movere potuerit neminem, qui, uti par est, cogitaverit, præcedere semper ante oportere primam rei cujusque notionem, quam vel minima de qualitatibus ipsius oboriatur quæstio.

Hiscæ jam pensitatis, propius me ad ea, quæ de planta mea observanda habui, confero. Et quidem ideo illam novam dicebam, quod cum manca duntaxat ac admodum imperfecta mentione ad notitiam botanicorum pervenit, adeoque nec ab ullo adhuc systematicorum in album stirpium cognitarum est relata. Certe LOEFLINGIO nostrati in America peregrinanti, illam ipsam visam fuisse, haud obscure ex itinerario ejus patet, ubi tamen non nisi breviter et quasi per transennam unam alteramque ejus tradit notam, quanquam quidem fusius sine dubio reliqua persecutus fuisset, nisi fato occubuisset præmaturo. Ceterum nec multum refragabor, si quis contenderit, arborem illam mali folio, quam profert doctiss. H. SLOANE, *Hist. Jam. tom. ii. p. 30. tab. 174. f. 1.*
Croton

Croton esse spicatum, tametsi non negem, unam alteramque discrepantiam cerni posse evidentiorē, quod fortasse maximam partem pictori tribuendum; interim tamen suadent convenientiam imprimis spicæ terminales, ut reliqua taceam.

Icon adjecta fruticis ramulum exactissime refert magnitudine naturali, lectum ante biennium Havanæ a chirurgo N. RUDOLPH.

T A B. VII.

CROTON.

CROTON (*spicatum*) foliis ovatis glabris, ramis nudis, florum racemis spicatis terminalibus. Croton foliis ovatis, floribus spicatis, stylis multifidis depresso patentibus, frutescens. LOEFL. *It. p.* 234. *n.* 50.

Mali folio arbor, artemisiæ odore, flore pentapetalo spicato. SLOAN. *Hist. Jam. ii. p.* 30. *t.* 174. *f.* 1. vix bona. *Cat. Jam.* 139. RAJ. *dendr.* 17. Habitat Havanæ in America.

DESCR. *Caulis* fruticosus, ramosus. *Rami* subterminati, cinerei, subrugosi, erecti, nudi, cicatricibus obsoletis, ramulosi. *Ramuli* confimiles; tenelli, glabri, sulcati. *Folia* solummodo in ramis tenellis, alterna, ovato oblonga, integerrima, basi rotundata, apice sublaceolato, obtuso, firmisscula, utrinque glabra, petiolo instar nervi longitudinalis discum folii subtus percurrente, nervis obliquis tenuioribus nervosa, bipollicaria vel paulo ultra, frequentia, petiolata, patentia. FLORES MASCULI racemoso-spicati, pedicellati. *Racemi* terminales, pyramidales, compactiusculi, solitarii, pedunculati. *Bractææ* lineares, obtusæ,



CROTON spicatum.

fæ, glabræ, ad basin pedunculi racemi sitæ. *Pedicelli* subpubescentes. CALYX. *Perianthium* decaphylli sæpe ultra, imbricatum: squammis subæqualibus, ovatis, obtusiusculis, extus glabriusculis, intus hirsutis: hirsutie albida. COROLLA nulla. STAMINA. *Filamenta* xii, sæpe ultra, subulata, inferne hirsuta, erecta, longitudine calycis. *Antherae* subrotundæ, compressæ, subtetragonæ, erectæ. *Receptaculum* staminum hirsutum. FLORES FEMINEI solitarii, ad basin pedunculi racemi masculini intra bracteam siti pedunculati, erecti. CALYX. *Perianthium* pentaphyllum, infernum: foliolis lineari-lanceolatis, acutiusculis, erectis, subæqualibus, minutissime punctatis, subsca- biusculis. PISTILLUM. *Germen* subrotundum, compressum, subhirsutum. *Styli* tres, longitudine calycis, infima basi cohærentes; singuli ad medium sexfidi: laciniis ex uno puncto prodeuntibus, subulatis; unde ramosi apparent. *Stigmata* xviii, obtusa.

OBS. A Croto glabello LINN. caute distinguendum; etenim in illo rami foliosi, flores racemoso-paniculati, axillares.